

sanctioned, rests upon the financial condition of the Government, as several such demands have to be met.

(b) Government has realised the necessity for the same though the matter cannot be classified as urgent.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know who is in direct charge of the Ophthalmic section?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Dr. Thomas.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is he in the permanent service or an honorary worker?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—He is an honorary worker.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is the temporary establishment able to cope with the work?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know when this general scheme of improvement was sent up?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—About a year and a half ago.

Application for study leave from Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

397. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the State Medical Service have applied for study leave this year; and

(b) whether such leave has been refused to any of them; and if so, why it was refused?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. To Sub-Assistant Surgeon Mr. K. Kochunny Menon. He is already 49 years old and could therefore serve the Darbar only for 3 or 4 years after his studies. The Government did not therefore think it worthwhile to grant him the leave.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know if there is any age-limit in the matter of granting study leave?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—There is no specific age-limit; but under the 82nd list of corrections, as regards study leave, it is distinctly stated that study leave may be granted for higher studies in India or outside, provided it is in the public interest that the officer is pursuing the studies.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is it against public interest of the Medical Department that these officers should not go for higher studies?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is so in general.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is it against the interest of the Medical Department to send subordinate officers for higher studies in Europe?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—No.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Then why this man was not sent up?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is because of his age. He may not be able to serve the department for a long time.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—For how many years did he apply for leave?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—2 years.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Then he can serve the Department at least for 4 years after his return.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Can he not serve the public after his retirement?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—That is a different thing.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—What is the time limit that the Government expects an officer to serve when study leave is granted to him under similar circumstances?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—There is no period definitely fixed?

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Then what is the meaning of saying that he is already 49 years old and could, therefore, serve the Darbar only for 3 or 4 years? 49 years or the 4 years' service, which is the disqualification?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—4 years is too short a period.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—What the minimum period that the Government expects an officer to serve?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—An officer should be able to serve for at least 10 to 15 years because Government spends money on that officer.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know at what age was Dr. Poduval was given leave for study?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—He was only 35 years old.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What was his age when he went to Germany last time?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It might have been 43 or 44.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What is his present age, may I know?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—About 48.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the Government consider then that he would not be able to serve the Department for 15 years?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—In the case of Dr. Poduval he went to Europe for higher studies. But in this case he is going to Madras.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it not a fact that this gentleman has an idea to go to England after finishing his course in Madras?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—The present study leave is for 2 years and it is to qualify himself for M. B.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was it not for 2 years and 3 months?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is for 2 years' study leave and 3½ months privilege leave.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was not that for going to England?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—But for his passing his M.B. he may take more than 2 years.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it not the custom in your department to give extensions? Are there not instances of men over the age of 60 who were given extensions? Most probably he was expecting an extension after the age of pension.

Mrs. Swaris.—Do you not know that age is a matter of feeling and not of years?

President.—It is a matter of opinion. Question time is over.

Enhancement of salary of the Government Advocate.

398. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government Advocate has requested Government either for an increase in his salary or for the grant of his maximum salary;

(b) whether his request, if any, was allowed?

Rama Varma Tampuran.—(a) Yes, for the grant of the maximum pay.

(b) The question is proposed to be taken up for consideration at the time of framing the budget for 1109.

Pattancheri Village—Bathing arrangement.

399. Mr. K. C. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the caste-Hindus of Pattancheri have any public tank for bathing purposes;

(b) whether the present tank owned by private persons has got sufficient supply of water for the use of the public;